



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Robert T. Matsui

Serving California's 5th District

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MATSUI REMARKS ON STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

"There is no question that President Bush addresses a very anxious nation tonight. America faces challenges as formidable as any in our nation's history. All Americans – regardless of political affiliation – stand committed to winning the war on terrorism, and to safeguarding our homeland. To achieve these goals, our country and our government must live up to its promises by committing the resources necessary to make rhetoric match reality.

"On domestic and economic policy, a wide gulf remains between where the President would lead and where we ought to be heading. The economy is sputtering. Nearly 2 million jobs have evaporated since President Bush took office. The federal budget, which was once in surplus, is again awash in red ink. The Bush Administration suggests that this rapid fiscal deterioration is no cause for alarm. But history and economics teaches us otherwise. Our large and growing national debt threatens Social Security and Medicare and will act as a drag on economic growth.

"On issue after issue, the President's rhetoric does not match his policy agenda. For all the talk of compassion and progress, millions of Americans are struggling and millions more are being left behind. Cities, states, and local governments cannot fund their most basic priorities, such as homeland security, health care, and education. These are priorities that the American people care about and that impact their lives.

"What our country needs now is a sensible plan to revive our economy and put people back to work. But the President's reckless and irresponsible agenda of tax cuts will do nothing to stimulate the economy. Instead, it will drive us further into debt, and will give hefty tax cuts to those who are least likely to spend them. Those at the top will receive tax breaks larger than most American's annual income, while 50 percent of Americans will receive less than \$100. That's not the way to move the country forward. The President should put aside the wish lists of wealthy donors and business lobbyists and listen to the needs of American families. He should take this opportunity to work with Democrats and Republicans to craft an economic policy that is fair to all Americans.

"Democrats have taken the lead in defining a positive agenda for America. We have crafted an economic plan that will create jobs and get the economy moving – without creating massive deficits. It is a plan that works for the American people. If we pursue it together, we will ensure that the state of the Union is stronger, healthier, and more prepared for the great challenges that face our country."

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